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Metaphoric perceptions of school of physical education and sport students to the concept “computers education”

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to perceptions of the School of Physical Education and Sport students related to the concept of “computer education” through metaphor. This study was conducted with the participation of 118 (mean age: 19.92 ± 1.54) students from School of Physical Education and Sport. In order to collect data participants, students were asked to fill the gaps in the phrase of “computer education is like.....; because.....”. SPSS package program was used for statistical analyses. According to the results, overall, participants produced 73 valid metaphors. These metaphors are collected based 8 different catagories in terms of common features. Findings of this study, metaphors can be used as a powerful research tool in the understanding of personel perceptions of computer education concept has been concluded.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Today, the first thing that comes to mind when you speak of technology is computer technology and education. Computers constitute an indispensable part in human life. Usage area of computers has grown to such an extent that they confront human beings everywhere they step on. The rapid development of today’s technology, especially the

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use of computers in every sector and in every working area, has led office-style working to increase considerably (Colak, 2004).

For these reasons, computer training gains importance in every stage of education. The purpose of this study is to find out the perceptions the Physical Education and Sports School students have about the concept of “Computer Training” through metaphor. Thus, the viewpoints of students about computers, which have an important place in their lives, will also be revealed.

The word metaphor was derived from the Greek word “Metapherein” (Soysal, 2012). In fact, it is formed from two separate words, one of which is ‘Meta’ meaning “to change” and the other of which is ‘Pherein’ meaning “to bear” (Levine, 2005).

Direct Turkish equivalent of the word metaphor is “simile and analogy”. Metaphors include information transfer to a new and mainly unknown area from a mainly similar area (Soysal, 2012). Metaphors are one of the strong intellectual means which configure, orient and control our thoughts about people and occurrence of incidents without our being aware of it (Soysal, 2012; Miller, 1987 & Tsoukas, 1991).

In addition, metaphors are expressions that we frequently use to comprehend the world we live in, to express ourselves in a different way in the society, in bilateral dialogues and to convey our thoughts in a different way but we do not notice much while using (Kalyoncu, 2012).

We have observed in the literature study we carried out that metaphors are used in the fields of education and training (Kalyoncu, 2012; Saban et al., 2006; Saban, 2004; Öztürk, 2007; Guerrero and Villamil, 2002 & Saban, 2008). Starting from this point of view, the answer to the question “What are the metaphors of Physical Education and Sports School students about computer training?” has been searched for.

2. Method

The method used in the study is the screening model method. Screening models are research methods aiming to describe a past or presently existing situation as it exists (Soysal, 2012; Karasar, 2002). The method used in our study reveals the perceptions the Physical Education and Sports School students have about the concept of computer education and computer course through metaphors.

2.1. Research Group

118 students of Physical Education and Sports School of Kocaeli University participated in the study. Four (4) of these students were excluded from the study later.

2.2. Data Collection

While conducting the research on the students of Physical Education and Sports School, the students were primarily informed about the metaphor technique. While collecting the data from the students, each student was posed the statement “computer education is like.....; because.....” and their opinions were asked. The metaphors in the answers given by the students constituted the data source (Kalyoncu, 2012).

2.3. Data analysis

The answers of the participant students being able to make meaningful metaphors were evaluated. The metaphors were first sorted out and then categorized and statistically evaluated. In our study, there were 73 valid metaphors about the concept of computer training made by the students of Physical Education and Sports School. These metaphors are collected based 8 different categories in terms of common features (Aktekin, 2010), (Table 1).

Table 1: The metaphor categories the students of Physical Education and Sports School have about the concept of computer education.

Classification	Methaphor	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
1.Dissipation/Unknown	Dissipation (1) Hero(1) Puzzle (3) Life (5) Sport(2) Surf (1) Walking(2) Swimming (1) Water(1) Mixer (1)	18	%15.78
2.Hopeless struggle	Complexity (3) Perplexity(1) Running(2) Infant(1) Ladder(1) Shopping(1) Machine(1) Ocean (1) Urgency(2)	13	%11.40
3.Bitter&Sweet	Love (1) Football(1) Match (1) Sociability (1) Training (1) Game (1) Confound (1) Day(1) Freedom(1) Soup(1) Sweetheart(1)	11	%9.64
4.Discovery-Detection	Meal (7) Bicycle(2) Innovation(2) Step(1) Handwork(1) Respiration(1) Mathematics (3) Human(1) Cooking (1) Growing(2) Discover (4) Anatomy(1) Drafting (1) Existence (1) Dance(1) Eye(1) Artistry(1) Trip(1) Recognizance (5)	36	%31.57
5.Lead-Intelligence	School (2) Crawling (3) Debut(1) Book(1) Writing(1) Billiards (1) Pie(1) Flower(1) Chess (1) Washing machine (1)	14	%12.28
6.Scope out	Road(1) Robot(1) Convalesce (1) Language(4) Problem -Solving(2) Intelligence(1) Boxing(1)	11	%9.64
7.Distress	Aware(1)	1	%0.87
8.Stoned sense-	Unhealthy gratification Car(4) Bird(1) Phone(1) Addiction (1) Chocolate(2) Football club(1)	10	%8.77
Total	73	114	

3. Discussion and conclusion

In our study, it was aimed to find out the metaphors of the Physical Education and Sports School students based on their experience related to computer training during their education and to categorize those metaphors conceptually.

Several studies on education have been conducted on university students and different occupational groups through metaphor(Kalyoncu, 2012; Döş, 2010; Soysal, 2012; Öztürk, 2007; & Gillis and Johnson, 2002). For example, Kalyoncu (2012) studied on the metaphors related to the concept of teaching on the prospective teachers of Fine Arts. In addition, there are metaphor studies related to the training programs conducted on the prospective teachers of primary education and graduate students (Gultekin, 2013 & Dünder, 2013).

Consequently, the findings of our study can be used as a research tool to find out the personal perceptions and mental images the students of Physical Education and Sports School have about computer training. Metaphors assist people on the issues they have difficulty in understanding. We are of the opinion that the metaphors the students of Physical Education and Sports School have about the phenomenon of computer training will make contributions to other branches and educators.

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